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Walsby, Robert, 1st Earl of Orford
A
DA 496
1710
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LETTER

FROM A

STORAGE
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Foreign Minister

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E N G L A N D,

T O

Monfieur PETTECUM.

CONTAINING

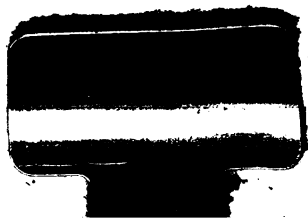
The True Reasons of the late Changes in
the Ministry, and of the Calling a New
Parliament: And therefore fit to be pe-
rus'd by all the Electors.

Translated from the French Original.

London: Printed for J. Baker, in the Year,
1710. (Price 2d.)



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. S I R,

I Find by your Letter of the 8th Instant, that the Deputies of the States-General for Foreign and secret Affairs, had held several Consultations about the present Posture of Affairs in *England*; and that upon their Report, their High Mightinesses seem'd inclin'd to send hither Monsieur *Buys*, Pensioner of *Amsterdam*, Ambassador Extraordinary to the Queen of *Great-Britain*, to take care of the Interest of your Republick. You desire me, at the same time, to give you such Lights into the true State of Things here, as may serve towards Mr. *Buys*'s Instructions, in case that Embassy should be fully resolv'd upon: Which I shall do the more readily, because my Master being himself embark'd in the Grand Confederacy, of which *England* is the main Pillar, it is our Common Interest to watch the Measures of this Court, that we may regulate ours by 'em.

I must in the first place freely tell you, that I was somewhat surpriz'd, when I heard that so wise a Body as the States, could seem alarm'd at her *Britannick* Majesty's Design to make some Alterations in Her Ministry, and to call a *New Parliament*. But I was perfectly amaz'd, when I was inform'd that they had interpos'd in favour of the old Ministers: A Thing which they

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never took upon them to do, even in the late King *William's* Reign, when their High Mightinesses might reasonably be suppos'd to have a greater share in the Councils of the *British* Court. However, I will not pass a harder Censure upon this Step, than her *Britannick* Majesty Herself, who has only look'd upon it, either as the Effect of a *mistaken Zeal* for the Common Cause, or the *Crafty Suggestion* of the Friends and Emisaries of the late Lord T——. For having set all Engines at work, in this Country, to keep him in his *Place*, and *Power*, and found them uneffectual, they at last endeavour'd to persuade some of the Allies, that the PUBLICK CREDIT of *England* depended upon him ; so that the whole Confederacy seem'd to be concern'd in his *Preservation*.

This I take to be the most favourable Construction that can possibly be put on the *Interposition* of their High Mightinesses; but lest any *false Suggestions*, or Representations of Things here, should lead that wise Assembly into any other impolitic Measures, I shall discover to you the TRUE REASONS and *Motives* of the late *Alterations* in this Court.

I must in the first place, rectify the Confus'd and false Notion, which is generally entertain'd Abroad, and even by many here, of the Different Parties in this Nation. You comprehend all in *Holland* under the Common Appellations of TORIES and WHIGGS, who indeed are the most Numerous, and most Powerful ; but, besides these Two Parties, there are Two others, of less Consideration, *viz.* the JACOBITES and the REPUBLICANS.

Tho'

Tho' it be far more Difficult to *define* in *Politics*, than in *Metaphysicks*, I shall endeavour to give you a right Idea of these *Four Parties*; which if my Observations, for these One and Twenty Years past, deceive me not, is as follows.

I. First the *Tories* are those who firmly adhere to the Monarchical Government, under its legal Limitations and Restrictions, and to the Doctrine and Ceremonies of the Church of *England*, and who, upon old Grudges and Animosities, look on the *Dissenters* as their declar'd Enemies.

II. The Party of the *Whiggs*, or *Low-Churchmen*, is made up of such Church-men, as have a Brotherly Tenderness for the *Dissenters*; and of the *Dissenters* themselves: And both these are also for *Monarchy*, tho' perhaps in a more restrain'd Sense than the other.

III. The *Jacobites* consist of some Members of the Church of *England*, and of all the *Roman Catholics* of the Kingdom, the first of whom upon a Principle of *Conscience*; the others of *Duty*, *Inclination* and *Interest*, did constantly adhere to the late King *James*, and as far as in them lay, promoted his *Restoration*, as they now do that of the *Pretender*. This Party is of itself hardly considerable enough to be mention'd, or taken notice of, but that on all publick Occasions they intrude themselves upon, and mix with the *High-Churchmen*; who, tho' they differ in Principle, and are firmly zealous for the *Protestant Succession*, yet in *Elections* do not scruple to accept their Votes; the rather, because their Competitors, the *Whiggs*, do also fortify themselves by the *Fourth Party*, viz-

IV. *The Republicans, or Common-wealth's-men*
 This Party, a Spawn of the old *Oliverians*, or *Cromwellists*, consists of a few *Presbyterians*, and all the *Independants* of this Nation, who would make no manner of Figure by themselves, but that they joyn themselves with the true *Whiggs*: Tho' with as small Encouragement from them, as the *Jacobites* receive from the *High-Church-Men*; and as little Conformity to their Political Principles.

From these INTRUSIONS it comes topass, that upon any *Contentions* and *Disputes* that arise between the Two Great Parties of this Nation, the *Tories* and *Whiggs*, they mutually asperse one another with the odious *Appellations* of the *Minor Party*, which sometimes lurks amongst them; so that the *Tories* call the *Whiggs Republicans*, and the *Whiggs* call the *Tories Jacobites*.

But, Sir, you must observe, that these Distinctions of *Tory* and *Whigg* do properly belong to the *Second Class*, or *Inferior Rank* of Men: For Persons of the first Rank, who either by their *Birth*, or *Abilities*, are entitled to govern others, do not really list themselves in these Parties, but only put themselves at the Heads of either of them, as they judge it most subservient to their Private Ends and Designs; which being premis'd, it will not be difficult to trace up the late *Alterations* in this Country, to their true Causes.

The Nobility and Gentry of this Free Nation, bearing with Indignation and Impatience the exorbitant Power invaded by the D. of M— and the late *Lord Treasurer*, whose Families engross'd the most profitable Places, and accumulated vast Riches to themselves, whilst the Generality groan'd under the Weight of heavy Taxes;

Taxes; and who absolutely dispos'd of all Civil and Military Employments, with visible Partiality to their Dependants; a Design was laid to remove the one, and by that means restrain the Authority of the other. In order to that, some distant Attempts were made in the House of Commons towards an Inquiry into the Management of the Treasury; for which the apparent NEGLECT of the War in Spain, and the immense Debt of the Navy, gave but too just a Pretence. But the Lord Treasurer having secur'd a great Party among the *Whiggs*, who made up the Majority of that House, that Enquiry which was press'd by the *Tories*, was overrul'd and laid aside.

However, the Lord Treasurer, still apprehensive of being call'd to an Account the last Winter, dextroously laid hold of a favourable Opportunity to divert the Attention of the Parliament, by causing a *Hot-headed* Divine to be Impeach'd, and Prosecuted with all the Solemnity and Formality of Parliamentary Tryals, for a *Sermon*, which both Parties agreed to be a *Piece of Nonsense*, and the Result of an *Extravagant and Ignorant Zeal*: But which contain'd a *Crime*, in the Opinion of the Lord Treasurer's Friends, *unpardonable*: For it bitterly inveigh'd against his *Male-Administration*, Characterizing him by his Nickname of *VOLPONE*.

But, Sir, mark the *Folly* of Humane Wisdom! This very Tryal of Dr. *Sacheverell*, which was principally contriv'd for the Lord Treasurer's *Preservation*, has prov'd the main Handle of his Destruction. For the Queen having been present at this solemn Tryal, and taking Notice, that the *Whiggs*, who manag'd this Prosecution,

advanc'd some Political Positions that invaded the Royal Prerogative, which the *Tories*, who defended him, asserted with great Loyalty and Zeal, Her Majesty was thereby Naturally inclin'd to entertain better Thoughts of the latter.

On the other hand, an insolent great Lady, who had long entirely possess'd the Queen's Favour, being intoxicated with Power, and not behaving herself with that *grateful* and *respectful* Carriage to her *Mistress* and *Benefactress*, which such high Obligations and her Duty exacted from her, the Queen began to be reserv'd with her, and to take into her Royal Confidence another Lady, a near Relation of the Dutchess of *Marlborough*.

The Credit of the latter, and of all the *Whigg-Party*, whom she protected, declined considerably last Winter, upon a Contention about the Disposal of the late Earl of *Essex's* Regiment of Dragoons, which Her Majesty would have bestow'd on Colonel *Hill*, Brother to the growing Favourite, as a just Reward for his Eminent Service at the Battle of *Almanza*, where he was very Instrumental to the preserving the broken Remains of the Infantry. This was oppos'd by those then in Power about the Queen, who insisting on Her Prerogative, the *Struggle* went so far, that a Design was laid by one of the Dutchess's Sons-in-law in a great Post, to procure a Vote of the House of Commons for the Removal of Mrs. *M——*. This intended Violence was timely prevented, by the Colonel's throwing himself at Her Majesty's Feet; and begging she would be pleas'd to bestow that Post upon another Officer, which Her Majesty granted: But justly resenting this,

this, and other Indignities that had been offer'd Her; and at the same time, a Gentleman of great Parts, Probity, and Address, having the Opportunity of acquainting Her Majesty with the General Discontent, at the exorbitant Power and Greatness of one Family, and at the Management of Affairs, in Relation to some part of the War, and the Navy, Her Majesty resolv'd to make some Changes in Her Ministry, and thereupon began with the Person who had propos'd the Removing of Mrs. M——. The Lord Treasurer was the next: Nor can Mr. H——y be blam'd for having contributed to the Fall of a Person, who, after he had been Saved by Mr. H——ly, from an Impeachment (on account of the *Act of Security* pass'd in *Scotland*) by an uncommon Piece of Ingratitude, bore him an inveterate Hatred; and not satisfy'd with having removed him from the *Secretary's Office*, us'd afterwards all imaginable, and indeed Scandalous Methods to destroy him. The Lord Treasurer's Fall was attended by the Removal of several other Persons, whose Places are supplied by Men of Equal Merit, and no less Zealous to advance the Interest of their Country, than to promote the Good of the *Common Cause*: And I am confident, That if the Court of *France* broke the late Conferences at *Gertruydenberg*, upon a Prospect of the turn of Affairs in this Country, in favour of the *Pretender*, they will be as miserably disappointed in that fond Expectation, as they have been in many others of the like Kind on this side the Water, and perhaps pay very *Dear* for their Mistake: For in all probability, this *New Ministry* will insist upon better Terms for *All the Allies*, than the Old would have been contented with.

The

The Treasury in particular, which is both the *Nerve* of the *War*, and the *Spring* of **PUBLICK CREDIT**, is now in the Hands of Five Persons no less conspicuous for their *Abilities*, than for their *Integrity*; and whose great Estates in Land is a Security to the Nation for their Clear and just Administration. That you and your Friends in *Holland*, may form a true Notion of them, I shall give you a short Sketch of their Characters.

In the first Place the Earl of **POWLET** is a Noble-man of Polite Literature, Publick Spirit, clear and unspotted Reputation, Virtuous and Exemplary Life, Moderate Temper, and in possession of an Estate of above Twelve Thousand Pounds *per Annum*.

Mr. *Harley* is already so well known by the great Parts he has acted, both in the last and the present Reign, that it may seem needless to mention his Character. However, he having been foully misrepresented by his Enemies, I must acquaint you that he is a Gentleman of wonderful Natural and acquired Abilities; Universal Learning; wonderful Address, Penetration, and Indefatigableness; and who of all Men, is best acquainted with the Constitution of this Kingdom, and the Methods of Proceeding in Parliament. As for his Principles, in relation to the Parties that divide this Nation, I know not that he ever entirely embrac'd any; but still went into such Measures as he thought most conducing to the *True Interest* of his Country, of which I shall give you these few Instances. In the first Place, he sided with the High-Church Party, when they oppos'd the Bill of Attainder against Sir *John Fenwick*, being perswaded they had most Moderation who least pretended to it. On the other Hand, after the *Assassination Plot*, he

he was one of the most forward to sign in the House of Commons, the ASSOCIATION in favour of King *William*; which shews he is intirely in the *Revolution Principles*. In the third Place, he brought into the House of Commons, the Bill for TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS; which is a stronger *Bulwark* of the *British Liberties*, than the *Habeas Corpus Act*. And Lastly, he signaliz'd his first entrance into the Secretaries Office, by preventing an Insurrection that was ready to break out in *Scotland* in favour of the *Pretender*; which demonstrates his Affection to the *Protestant Succession*.

Sir Thomas Mansel, who was formerly Comptroller to Her Majesty's Household, is a Gentleman of a very Ancient Family; most ample Fortune; Generous Temper; Publick Spirit; and clear Understanding: Truly zealous for the Establish'd Church, without any Bitterness towards the Dissenters.

Mr. Paget, Son to the Lord *Paget*, sufficiently known Abroad by his Embassies, is a Gentleman whose bright Parts and Spirit have often been admir'd in the House of Commons, and who is perfectly well acquainted with the Business of the Navy, having been one of the Council to his late Royal Highness Prince *George*.

In the last Place, *Mr. Benson* is a Gentleman of quick and bright Parts, improved by Study, Travel, and Polite Conversation; well vers'd in the Laws of this Kingdom, and Parliamentary Proceedings; which has gain'd him a great Interest in his Native County of *Tork*, and in the House of Commons.

These *Sir*, are the five Gentlemen who now have the Administration of the Queen's Treasury; and

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